

## CLAIMS

1. A water-soluble or water-dispersible linseed extract characterised in that the extract has an absorption of at least  $1.2 \text{ g/m}^2$  wherein the  
5 adsorption is measured by contacting an aqueous solution or dispersion of the extract with a silica substrate, rinsing the silica substrate and then measuring the adsorption by ellipsometry.
2. An extract according to claim 1 wherein the adsorption is from 1.3  
10 to  $5 \text{ mg/m}^2$ , preferably from  $1.4$  to  $4 \text{ mg/m}^2$ , more preferably from  $1.5$  to  $3 \text{ mg/m}^2$ ,
3. An extract according to claim 1 or claim 2 which has been which  
has been spray dried or freeze dried, preferably spray dried.
- 15 4. An extract according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the adsorption is from  $1.75$  to  $2.5 \text{ mg/m}^2$ , preferably the adsorption is about  $2 \text{ mg/m}^2$ .
- 20 5. An extract according to any one of the preceding claims wherein in the adsorption measurement method, there is a contact time between when the aqueous solution or dispersion of the extract contacts the silica substrate and when the silica substrate is rinsed wherein the contact time is from 100 to 3000 seconds, preferably from 500 to 2500 seconds, more  
25 preferably from 1000 to 2000 seconds.
6. A pharmaceutical composition, characterised in that it comprises an extract according to any one of the preceding claims and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

7. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the composition comprises less than 10% water by weight, preferably less than 5% water by weight, more preferably less than 2% water by weight, most preferably less than 1% water by weight.

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8. A composition according to any preceding claim, which is in solid form and is preferably presented in the form of a tablet, capsule or a powder.

10 9. A composition according to claim 6 which is in liquid form obtainable by dissolution or dispersion of the composition according to claim 6 in a solvent which comprises water.

10. A pack or dispenser device comprising one or more unit dosage  
15 forms of a composition according to any one of claims 6 to 9.

11. An extract according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or a composition according to any one of claims 6 to 10, for use in the treatment of xerostomia.

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12. A process for the production of a water soluble or water dispersible linseed extract, comprising spray drying or freeze drying a aqueous solution or dispersion of said linseed extract.

25 13. A process according to claim 12 which comprises spray drying.

14. A process according to claim 12 or claim 13 which comprises spray drying at a temperature of greater than 110°C, preferably greater than 135°C, more preferably greater than 150°C, most preferably greater than  
30 170°C; particularly preferably the temperature is about 180°C.

15. A method of treating xerostomia comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a linseed extract according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or of a composition according to any one of claims 6 to 9 to a patient in need of such treatment.

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16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the extract or composition is administered orally.

17. Use of an extract according to any one of claims 1 to 5 or of a  
10 composition according to any one of claims 6 to 9 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of xerostomia.